

1        CLAIM LISTING

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3        1-32    Canceled

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5        33.    (New) A method for changing a transport element under a stack of products, the method  
6              including:

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8              (a)    fastening a product stack between a first transport element at a lower end of the  
9              product stack and a fastening cover at an upper end of the product stack opposite  
10             the lower end, the product stack resting in an initial position on the first transport  
11             element and the first transport element lying on a foot element;

12             (b)    independently of fastening the product stack between the first transport element  
13             and the fastening cover, clamping the product stack between at least two  
14             additional opposite side surfaces thereof with at least two clamping jaws, the at  
15             least two additional opposite side surfaces being located between the upper and  
16             lower ends of the product stack;

17             (c)    while maintaining the product stack clamped with the at least two clamping jaws,  
18             displacing the foot element away from the lower end of the product stack so that  
19             the first transport element is released;

20             (d)    replacing the first transport element with a second transport element;

21             (e)    after the first transport element is released and replaced with the second transport  
            element, displacing the foot element back toward the lower end of the product

1                   stack to place the second transport element against the lower end of the product  
2                   stack; and  
3                 (f) after the second transport element is placed against the lower end of the product  
4                   stack, removing the clamping jaws from the at least two additional opposite side  
5                   surfaces and removing the fastening cover from the upper end of the product  
6                   stack.  
7

8         34. (New) The method of claim 33 further including:

9                 (a) pivoting the product stack around an essentially horizontal axis from the initial  
10                  position to a tilted position, the pivoting to the tilted position occurring after  
11                  fastening and clamping the product stack and before displacing the foot element  
12                  away from the lower end of the product stack; and  
13                 (b) pivoting the product stack around the essentially horizontal axis from the tilted  
14                  position to the initial position after displacing the foot element back toward the  
15                  lower end of the product stack and before removing the clamping jaws and  
16                  fastening cover.

17  
18         35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the product stack is arranged essentially  
19                  horizontally in the tilted position.

20  
21         36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the product stack rests against a rear wall when in  
22                  the tilted position, the rear wall being separable in the plane defined thereby into two rear

1           wall elements, and further including separating the two rear wall elements when the  
2           product stack is in the tilted position to divide the product the stack.  
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4       37. (New) The method of claim 36 further including releasing the clamping jaws prior to  
5           separating the two rear wall elements.  
6

7       38. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein two or more of the steps overlap in time.  
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9       39. (New) An apparatus for facilitating the replacement of a transport element under a stack  
10          of products, the apparatus including:

11           (a) a rear wall with a lower end and an upper end, the rear wall running in a direction  
12           Z which is essentially vertically aligned in an initial position of the apparatus;

13           (b) a foot element in a first position adjacent to the lower end of the rear wall to  
14           support a product stack arranged on a first transport element, the foot element  
15           being movable between the first position and a second position, the second  
16           position being relatively further from the upper end of the rear wall as compared  
17           to the first position;

18           (c) a fastening cover located at the upper end of the rear wall, the fastening cover  
19           being moveable relative to the first position of the foot element for clamping the  
20           product stack in the direction Z between the fastening cover and the foot element;

21           and



1       44. (New) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the foot element is pivotable about an axis  
2                   extending parallel to the plane of the rear wall and perpendicular to direction Z.

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4       45. (New) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein:

5                   (a) the first and second clamping jaws are individually movable in a pivoting motion  
6                   about a respective axis extending essentially in direction Z; and  
7                   (b) the first and second clamping jaws are movable in a direction X extending  
8                   perpendicular to direction Z and parallel to the plane of the rear wall.

9

10      46. (New) The apparatus of claim 39 further including a vibrating element for vibrating the  
11                   product stack held in the apparatus.

12

13      47. (New) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the tilted position corresponds to a position  
14                   rotated around the tilting axis by 180° from the initial position.

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16      48. (New) The apparatus of claim 40 further including a respective drive for controlling the  
17                   rotation of the apparatus about the tilting axis.

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19      49. (New) The apparatus of claim 39 further including a respective drive for each of the first  
20                   clamping jaw, second clamping jaw, fastening cover, and foot element, each respective  
21                   drive for controlling the movement of the respective component.

